

NOTES ON *RACOSPERMA* MARTIUS (LEGUMINOSAE: MIMOSOIDEAE), 1

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Summary

R. armillatum, *R. ommatospermum*, *R. paniculatum*, and *R. homalocladum* (F.Muell.) Pedley, with which *R. paniculatum* has been confused, are described. Flowers of *R. fleckeri* (Pedley) Pedley, are described for the first time. These are all members of the 'Oligoneura group' of *Racosperma* which is here defined. Other new species are *R. meiospermum* and *R. polyadenium*. All species are referred to *Racosperma* sect. *Plurinervia*.

Species of *Acacia* Miller subg. *Phyllodineae* (DC.) Seringe (*A.* subg. *Heterophyllum* Vassal) should be referred to the genus *Racosperma* Martius (Pedley 1986). Only a small proportion of the formal transfer of names has been made. A checklist of Queensland species is included in this volume (Pedley 1987).

Since publication of the revision of the Queensland species (Pedley 1978, 1980 as *Acacia*) several others have been described for the State (Pedley 1981, Pedley & Forster 1986). Five species from tropical Queensland are described here. All are referred to *Racosperma* sect. *Plurinervia* (Benth.) Pedley.

***Racosperma meiospermum* Pedley, sp. nov.** floribus parvis, sepalis petalisque villosis instructis, phyllodiis crebris parallelis longitudinalibus nervis *R. brassii* (Pedley) Pedley simulat; autem resina multarum ramulorum apices versus phyllodiis brevioribus secus axem brevem axillarem dispositis, leguminibus non moniliformibus seminibus parum brevioribus differt. **Typus:** Sandy Tate River, Feb 1928, *Brass* 1745 (holo: BRI; iso: CANB,K,MO).

Shrub to 3 m high, young branchlets angular, red-brown, resinous, sometimes with scattered hairs to 1 mm long, becoming grey and terete when old. Phyllodes straight or slightly falcate, the lower margin \pm straight, the upper curved, covered with brown resin when young, losing it when older, 7-12.5 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, 3-5 times as long as wide, with many close parallel, non-anastomosing nerves, 3-5 more prominent than the rest; gland basal or almost so. Pulvinus 5-10 mm long. Stipules ovate, to 3 mm long when phyllodes first formed. Flowers in dense spikes 1.6-2 cm long, the rachis and peduncles with dense white hairs; peduncles 5 mm long, subtended by a striate concave bract to 3 mm long when young, arranged along an axillary axis, usually extremely short so that a group of 3-4 spikes is produced in each axil but occasionally the axis growing out into a leafy shoot with spikes well spaced along it. Flowers 5-merous. Calyx lobes narrowly oblong, slightly widened and thickened at the tip, free almost to the base, 1.5 mm long, villose with white hairs. Corolla lobes \pm free, 1.7 mm long, a few long hairs along the midline. Stamens 3-4 mm long. Ovary not seen (none present in flowers examined). Pods with up to 12 seeds, 8 cm long, 3 mm wide, obscurely longitudinally ribbed. Seeds 3.5 mm long, about twice as long as wide, longitudinally arranged; funicle creamy white, thickened and 2-3 times folded forming aril at base of seed; pleurogram fine, associated with pale area of seed coat; areole small with a narrow opening, about twice as long as wide. **Fig. 1C-E.**

Specimens examined. Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: Near Lappa, 17°23'S, 144°48'E, May 1982, *Pedley* 4855 (BRI); Koorboora, 17°43'S, 144°48'E, Jan 1982, *Pedley* 4841 (BRI); Sandy Tate River [approx. 17°40'S, 144°40'E], Feb 1928, *Brass* 1745 (BRI,CANB,K,MO).

Distribution: The species is confined to a small area about 40 km south-east of Chillagoe where it forms pure stands on shallow stony soils.

Notes and Observations: Young plants are pubescent and long hairs persist on the branches and phyllodes of some mature plants. The resemblance to *R. brassii* may not indicate a close relationship. The structure of the inflorescence suggests a relationship

with *R. juliferum*, *R. blakei* and other species which have spikes arranged along an axillary axis. Most juliflorous species in section *Plurinervia* have spikes in pairs. This may be a derived condition, representing an extreme reduction of the axis.

Racosperma polyadenium Pedley, sp. nov. affinis *R. drepanocarpa* (F.Muell.) Pedley phyllodiis minus coriaceis 2–4 glandulis ornatis, calycibus parvioribus et leguminibus parvioribus differt. **Typus:** Shaw Is., Lindeman Group, 6 Nov 1985, *G.N. Batianoff* 3354 & *C. Dalliston* (holo: BRI; iso: K,MO,NSW).

Shrub or small tree; branchlets slender, angular, at first very resinous. Phyllodes straight or slightly falcate, reddish brown and resinous when young, losing resin when old, somewhat acute with callus tip, 40–85 mm long, 2.8–5 mm wide, 12–20 times as long as wide, longitudinal parallel nerves not crowded (about 14 when phyllodes is wide), midnerve always conspicuous and two others sometimes so when phyllode is wide; gland small, basal, with 1–3 small glands along the margins, the lowest 12–25 mm from the base, the others at irregular intervals. Pulvinus *ca* 1 mm long. Stipules linear, about as long as the pulvinus, caducous. Flowers in somewhat open spikes, singly or in pairs in the upper axils; peduncles *ca* 6 mm long, resinous; rachis 12–20 mm long, resinous, elongating quickly following anthesis. Flowers 5-merous. Calyx wide cup-shaped, not closely investing the corolla, pale, membranous, glabrous, 0.6 mm long, lobed to about the middle the lobes lacking a midrib, somewhat thickened, apiculate, reflexed. Corolla *ca* 1.5 mm long, lobed to about the level of the calyx, petals reflexed. Stamens *ca* 2 mm long. Ovary densely pubescent. Pods with up to 8 seeds, 4.5 cm long, widest at the top, tapering to the base, rather woody, resinous, with margins thickened and obscurely longitudinally nerved faces, opening elastically from the top. Seeds not seen.

Specimens examined. Queensland. NORTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: Palm Is., *Henne* (MEL 108106). SOUTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: Whitsunday Is., *Henne* (MEL 108105); Shaw Is., Lindeman Group, Jun 1985, *Warrian* (BRI), Nov 1985, *Batianoff* 3354 & *Dalliston* (BRI,K,MO,NSW).

Distribution: The species is known from only three islands, one in the Lindeman Group, one in the Whitsunday Group and the other in the Palm Group some 350 km to the north-west. Such a distribution is unusual. None of the other narrowly distributed species of *Racosperma* of north-eastern Australian is confined to islands (see Maslin & Pedley 1982). Some of the islands of the central Queensland coast are visited by a lot of people each year and it is therefore remarkable that more than 100 years separated the collections of *Henne* and *Warrian*.

Ecology: Ecological data are scanty. *Warrian* noted *R. polyadenium* as a small tree growing in heathland on a hillside overlooking the beach, while *Batianoff* and *Dalliston* reported it as a prostrate shrub 30 cm tall growing in wind-shorn scrub 3–4 m tall at an altitude of 42 m.

Notes and Observations: *Bentham* (1864, p. 402) referred both of *Henne's* specimens to *Acacia drepanocarpa*. The only other specimen cited by him was the type specimen which lacks flowers. Consequently he based his description of the flowers on the only flowering material available to him, which was *Henne's* Palm Is. specimen. The description is, however, not an accurate one. As already pointed out (*Pedley* 1978) the phyllodes of *A. drepanocarpa* illustrated by *Mueller* (1888) hardly belong to that species. They are a reasonable representation of the phyllodes of *R. polyadenium*.

The 'Oligoneura group'

The species keyed below belong to the complex of species related to *R. excelsum* (*Benth.*) *Pedley* (see *Pedley* 1978, p. 84). These are characterised by having phyllodes on short pulvinuses with prominent widely spaced longitudinal nerves with open, sometimes obscure, anastomosing nerves between them. The flower heads are in pairs or several pairs in the phyllode axils or, in one species, at nodes along leafless axes. One head matures before the other of the pair and the calyx lobes are ultimately free. Since one species of the complex, *R. simsii* (*Benth.*) *Pedley* is the lectotype of the name *Acacia* subseries *Oligoneurae* *Benth.* (*Pedley* 1980), the species are referred to here as the 'Oligoneura group'. *Bentham* (1864) knew only four of the species included here, which he referred to two different subseries.

A key to Australian species of the 'Oligoneura group'

1. Heads on peduncles to 1 cm long in twos or threes at nodes along leafless axes forming a terminal panicle **R. paniculatum**
 Heads on peduncles in pairs or several pairs in upper axils, not forming a terminal panicle 2
2. Phyllodes to 7 mm wide 3
 Phyllodes more than 7 mm wide 6
3. Phyllodes 9–12 times as long as wide, 4–5 cm long **R. excelsum** subsp. **angustum**
 Phyllodes 13–40 times as long as wide, 5.5–12 cm long 4
4. Pods moniliform, valves membranous. Tree to 12 m with pendulous foliage **R. estrophiolatum**
 Pods flat with nerve-like margins, convex over the seeds, occasionally constricted between them. Shrubs to 4 m, foliage not pendulous 5
5. Phyllodes widest about the middle, acute, sometimes apiculate; peduncles 5–8 mm long. Pods 4–5(–7) mm wide **R. simsii**
 Phyllodes widest above the middle, acuminate; peduncles 3–4 mm long. Pods 8 mm wide **R. ramiflorum**
6. Branchlets flattened, winged. Funicle folded, at least half encircling the seed 7
 Branchlets acutely angled, not flattened. Funicle folded or not, encircling the seed or not 8
7. Phyllodes (12–)16–30(–45) mm wide with 9 prominent longitudinal nerves. Pods 10–15 cm long. Funicles completely encircling the seeds **R. complanatum**
 Phyllodes 9–15(–20) mm wide with three prominent longitudinal nerves. Pods to 8.5 cm long. Funicles half encircling the seeds **R. homalocladum**
8. Phyllodes thick with anastomosing nerves hidden, margins ribbon-like, somewhat papillose with a prominent gland at the base **R. multisiliquum**
 Phyllodes not markedly thick with anastomosing nerves visible, margins neither ribbon-like nor papillose 9
9. Pods strongly constricted between the seeds, breaking up into 1-seeded segments. Funicles not folded 10
 Pods not constricted between the seeds, not breaking up; often with parallel nerve-like margins and convex over the seeds. Funicles sometimes strongly folded 11
10. Phyllodes usually 4–6.5 cm long with 3–6 parallel nerves. Areole of seeds small **R. excelsum** subsp. **excelsum**
 Phyllodes 7.5–15 cm long with up to 10 parallel nerves. Areole large **R. armillatum**
11. Funicle encircling the seed. Phyllodes straight, 13–40 mm wide **R. fleckeri**
 Funicle sometimes folded but not encircling the seed. Phyllodes at least slightly falcate, 7–20 mm wide 12

12. Phyllodes strongly falcate, widest above the middle, 12–18 cm long. Pod with a well defined, raised pale margin when mature. **R. lenotum**
 Phyllodes either not strongly falcate or widest at or below the middle.
 Pod without a pale raised margin 13
13. Phyllodes widest near the top. Pod 6–8 mm wide. Seeds with a prominent pleurogram with a pale line **R. ommatospermum**
 Phyllodes widest at or below the middle. Pod *ca* 12 mm wide. Seeds with pleurogram lacking a pale line **R. hyalonomum**

Racosperma paniculatum Pedley, *sp. nov.* affinis *R. homaloclado* (F.Muell.) Pedley floribus grandioribus, funiculis semina non dimidio cingentibus, conspicuissime capitulis dpositis in paniculis terminalibus differt. **Typus:** 27 km N of 'Wakooka' on track to Bathurst Bay, June 1984, *J.R. Clarkson* 5375 (holo: BRI; specimina ad DNA, K,MBA,MEL,NSW,PERTH distributa, non visa).

Shrub or slender tree to 6 m, usually with a conspicuously white trunk; branchlets glaucous, angular, with phyllodes borne on short spurs. Phyllodes oblong, slightly curved, obtuse apiculate, 6–10(–12.5) cm long, 12–20(–25) mm wide, (3.5–)4.5–6.5 times as long as wide, three longitudinal nerves prominent, coarsely reticulate between them, the lower decurrent with the margin at the extreme base, gland prominent but without a rim, up to 4 mm from the base, abruptly narrowed into a short pulvinus. Heads of 25–30 flowers on peduncles 8–10 mm long in pairs (one head maturing before the other) on leafless axes to 12 cm long, terminating branchlets and in the upper axils, forming terminal panicles. Flowers glabrous, 5-merous. Calyx lobes free to the base, 1–1.3 mm long with a filiform claw and a rhomboidal lamina 0.25 mm wide. Corolla lobes united to the middle, 1.7–2.5 mm long. Stamens 3.5–4.5 mm long. Ovary glabrous. Pods straight, flat, convex over seeds, not at all constricted between them, glabrous, to 10 cm long, 8–9 mm wide, with up to 9 seeds. Seeds arranged longitudinally, funicle hardly thickened or folded, not seen mature. **Fig 1A-B.**

Specimens examined. Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: 27 km N of 'Wakooka' on the track to Bathurst Bay, *ca* 14°20'S, 144°20'E, June 1984, *Clarkson* 5375 (BRI; DNA, K, MBA, MEL, NSW, PERTH *n.v.*); Cape Flattery, 14°55'S, 144°20'E, Jun 1975, *Sharpe* 1505 (BRI); between 'Starke' & Cape Flattery, 15°02'S, 145°20'E, July 1976, *Webb & Tracey* 13549 (BRI); 4 km E of Hopevale–'Starke' road, 15°04'S, 145°20'E, Jun 1984, *Clarkson* 5327 (BRI); between McIvor River & Cape Flattery, 15°05'S, 145°15'E, Nov 1972, *Hyland* 6539 (BRI); 3 miles [5 km] from Pt Archer towards Cooktown, [15°35'S, 145°15'E], Jun 1972, *Wrigley & Telford* 1308 (BRI); Yarrabah, [16°55'S, 145°52'E], Aug 1918, *Michael* AQ191143 (BRI). NORTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: Hinchinbrook Is., Ramsay Bay, 18°20'S, 146°19'E, Aug 1975, *Sharpe* 1787 (BRI).

Distribution: The species is common on sand in heath or in the heathy understory of eucalypt open forest on sand in the Cape Flattery area with isolated populations at Yarrabah and on Hinchinbrook Is.

Flowering period: June.

Fruiting period: Fruits probably mature about September.

Notes and Observations: It has been confused with *R. homalocladum* (Pedley 1978), but differs in having larger flowers, a funicle which does not half encircle the seed, and most conspicuously, heads in terminal panicles. It is described as an attractive short-lived plant with deep yellow flowers.

Racosperma homalocladum (F.Muell.) Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 2: 350 (1987).

Acacia homaloclada F.Muell., *Fragm.* 11: 34 (1878), *Iconog. Austral. Acacia*, *Decade* 8 (1887); Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 214 (1978).

A spindly shrub to 3.5 m, young growth pink, all parts glabrous; branchlets acutely angled or winged, the phyllodes borne on short spurs decurrent with the wings. Phyllodes narrowly ovate, only slightly falcate, 6.5–10(–12) cm long, 9–15(–20) mm wide, 4.5–10 times as long as wide, narrowed at the tip, but obtuse with a small apiculum and a small gland on its dorsal side, narrowed into a pulvinus 2–5 mm long, a conspicuous gland 3–6 mm from the base; 3 longitudinal nerves conspicuous with inconspicuous loosely anastomosing nerves between them (similar to those of *R. multisiliquum*). Heads of 20–30 flowers on peduncles 10–15 mm long in two pairs in the upper axils, one head

of each pair opening before the other. Flowers 5-merous; bracteoles with a thick peltate lamina almost perpendicular to the claw. Calyx lobes free to the base, spatulate, 1 mm long. Corolla lobes united to the middle, somewhat flattened at their tips, 1.8 mm long; stamens *ca* 3.5 mm long; ovary glabrous. Pods straight, glaucous, not at all contracted between the seeds, flat, convex over the seeds, nerve-like margins, 85 mm long, 9–11 mm wide, with up to 10 seeds. Seeds arranged longitudinally, *ca* 5 mm long and 3 mm wide (immature); areole large, closed; funicle thickened into a fold to half encircle the seed.

Specimens examined. Queensland. NORTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: Hinchinbrook Is., Deluge Inlet, 18°23'S, 146°12'E, Jun 1979, A. & M. Thorsbourne (BRI); Hinchinbrook Is., Little Ramsay Bay, *ca* 18°20'S, 146°10'E, Aug 1975, Sharpe 1625 (BRI); Hinchinbrook Is., May 1986, Warrian CW5064 (BRI); Waterfall Creek, N of Ingham, [18°26'S, 146°09'E], Jan 1977, coll. unknown AQ378611 (BRI); Rungoo, [18 km N of Ingham, 18°28'S, 146°10'E], Jan 1952, King AQ191140 (BRI).

Distribution: *Racosperma homalocladum* is restricted to Hinchinbrook Island and a small area of the mainland opposite.

Flowering period: summer.

Fruiting period: Young fruits have been collected in June.

Notes and Observations: It has been confused with *R. paniculatum* which is more widely distributed but which also occurs on Hinchinbrook Island. The two species occupy different habitats. *R. paniculatum* is restricted to sand in heath or in heathy understorey of eucalypt open-forest whereas *R. homalocladum* occurs in light rainforest or open-forest on stony soil often near streams.

Racosperma armillatum Pedley, *sp. nov.* affinis *R. excelso* (Benth.) Pedley phyllodiis coriaceioribus basin versus angustatis valdius, leguminibus inter semina constrictis valdius differt. **Typus:** 12 km SE of Mt Janet on Survey road along Great Dividing Range, *ca* 11.5 km SW of Lakeland Downs township, 15°56'S, 144°46'E, Jan 1986, J.R. Clarkson 6291 (holo: BRI; iso: CANB,DNA,K,MEL,MO,NSW,PERTH,QRS,SAN).

Tree to 8 m with rough grey bark at base; branchlets somewhat angular, soon becoming terete and obscurely ribbed, lenticellate. Phyllodes glabrous, oblanceolate, spatulate, obovate or elliptic, variable in width often on a single plant, straight or falcate when narrow, 75–150 mm long, 5–15(–30) mm wide, 4–13 times as long as wide, up to 180 mm long on young plants, with up to 10 distinct longitudinal nerves with numerous oblique secondary nerves between them; gland small prominent, not rimmed, up to 2.5 mm from the base. Pulvinus 1.5 mm long. Heads of 20–30 flowers on peduncles 3–6 mm long in one or in two pairs in the upper axils, peduncles arising from an axis *ca* 1 mm long, one head maturing before the other of the pair. Flowers glabrous. Calyx lobes linear, widened and subacute at the tip, 1 mm long, united only at the base. Corolla lobes 1.5 mm long. Ovary glabrous. Pods flat with up to 8 seeds, 80 mm long, 6–10 mm wide, strongly constricted between the seeds, the isthmus only 2 mm wide when pods mature; valves with wing *ca* 0.7 mm wide and raised veins, breaking up into 1-seeded indehiscent segments. Seeds arranged longitudinally *ca* 5 mm long, 3 mm wide; pleurogram obscure; areole large, open; funicle not thickened and scarcely folded. **Fig. 1F-I.**

Specimens examined. Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: 12 km SE of Mt Janet on Survey road along Great Dividing Range, *ca* 11.5 km SW of Lakeland Downs township, 15°56'S, 144°46'E, Sep 1984, Clarkson 5507 (BRI), Jan 1986, Clarkson 6288 (BRI,DNA,K,NSW,PERTH), Jan 1986, Clarkson 6291 (BRI,CANB,DNA,K,MEL,MO,NSW,PERTH,QRS,SAN); Top of Fall Creek Gap, Wenlock–Iron Range road, 12°55'S, 143°00'E, Aug 1977, coll. Ingram & Hind, comm. Armitage 1138 (BRI,NSW); Walsh River, junction of Price Creek, Jun 1929, Tardent 166 (BRI).

Distribution: The species is evidently rare. It is known from only three localities. The population from which the type and fruiting material was collected is on a steep hillside in *Eucalyptus cullenii* woodland grading into *E. normantonensis* woodland. The Walsh River population has not been relocated despite more intensive botanical collecting in the area in the last few decades.

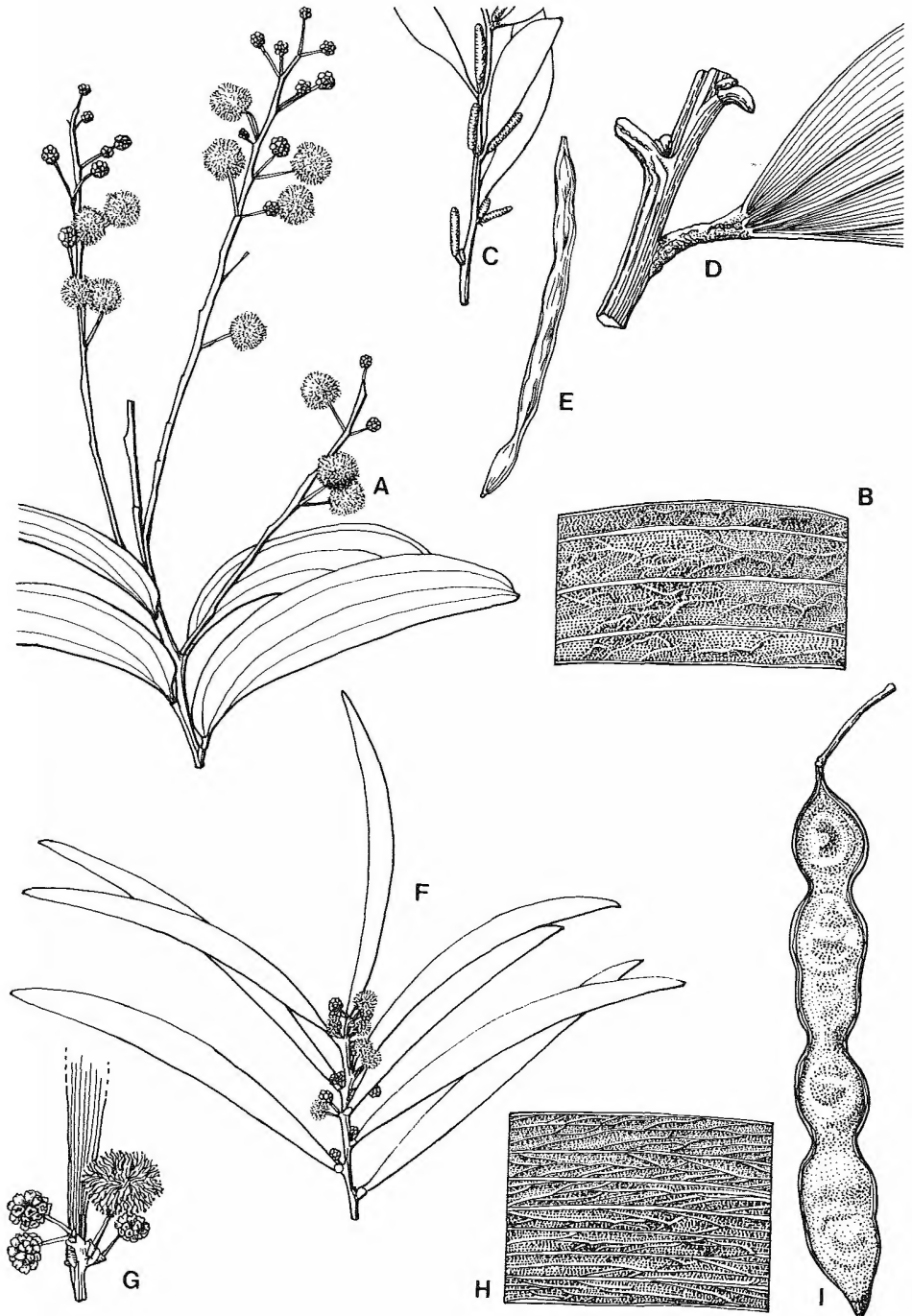


Fig. 1. *Racospermum paniculatum*: A. flowering branch $\times 2/3$. B. portion of phyllode $\times 2$. *R. meiospermum*: C. flowering branch $\times 2/3$. D. base of phyllode and pulvinus $\times 2$. E. pod $\times 1$. *R. armillatum*: F. flowering branch $\times 2/3$. G. inflorescence $\times 1$. H. portion of phyllode $\times 2$. I. pod $\times 1$.

Racosperma ommatospermum Pedley, sp. nov. ab *R. legnoto* (Pedley) Pedley phyllodiis minus manifeste nervatis minus falcatis leguminibus non alatis, seminibus parvioribus; ab *R. fleckeri* (Pedley) Pedley corollis longioribus, phyllodiis angustioribus, leguminibus angustioribus seminibus parum parvioribus et sine funiculo cingenti recedit. Typus: Andoom-Weipa area, 12°32'S, 141°55'E, Jun 1978, *K.A.W. Williams* 78088 (holo: BRI; iso: CANB).

A shrub or small tree, glabrous, branches drooping. Branchlets angular, soon becoming terete and ribbed. Phyllodes coriaceous, oblong-spathulate, somewhat falcate, the tip obtuse with a minute mucro, widest near the tip, narrowed to the base, 95–125 mm long, 7–12 mm wide, 9.5–14 times as long as wide, 3–5 ± prominent longitudinal nerves with oblique secondary nerves between them; gland small, without a rim, 1.5–3 mm from the base. Pulvinus 1.5–3 mm long. Heads of 25–30 flowers on axillary peduncles in one or two pairs in the upper axils, one head of each pair maturing before the other. Calyx lobes subacute, 0.8 mm long, united in the lower third, a few short hairs on the tube. Corolla lobes glabrous, 1.5 mm long, united to the middle. Stamens *ca* 3 mm long. Ovary glabrous but seen only in male flowers with a rudimentary style. Pod linear, glabrous with up to 12 seeds and 80 mm long, 6–8 mm wide, the valves raised over the seed alternately on each side. Seeds arranged longitudinally, lenticular, 3.3–3.5 mm diameter, 1.5–2 mm thick; pleurogram prominent with a pale line; areole closed or almost so; funicle with a small fold on one side of the seed, thickened from there to the hilar end into a distinct aril.

Specimens examined. Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: Andoom-Weipa area, 12°32'S, 141°55'E, Jun 1978, *Williams* 78088 (BRI,CANB.); Weipa, 12°39'S, 141°51'E, Oct 1981, *Morton* AM 1549 nursery raised stock (BRI,MEL); between 'York Downs' Stn and Coen, Oct 1979, *Scarth-Johnson* 873A (BRI).

Distribution: The species has a narrow range on Cape York Peninsula in the vicinity of Weipa where it occurs with *Eucalyptus tetrodonta* on red earth with ironstone gravel. It is evidently used to rehabilitate areas mined for bauxite at Weipa.

Racosperma fleckeri (Pedley) Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 2: 348 (1987).

Acacia fleckeri Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 211 (1978).

Phyllodes straight 90–125 mm long, 13–40 mm wide, 2.8–10 times as long as wide. Pulvinus 2–6 mm long. Heads of 30–40 flowers on axillary peduncles up to 10 mm long in one or two pairs in the upper axils, one head maturing before other one of pair, but if two pairs then one of each pair maturing together. Calyx lobes narrowly oblong to 1.2 mm long, united only at base, widened to *ca* 0.4 mm and thickened at tip with minute hairs (*ca* 0.05 mm long). Corolla lobes united to the middle, 1.8 mm long with distinct midribs, thickened and minutely papillose at the tip. Stamens 3.5 mm long. Ovary glabrous. Pod with up to 12 seeds, to 120 mm long, 8–10 mm wide.

Specimens examined. Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: Weipa-Wheeler Creek, 12°30'S, 142°15'E, Sep 1980, *Godwin* A18 (BRI); on bank of Wenlock River [13°29'S, 141°50'E or 13°06'S, 142°57'E], Jun 1978, *Armitage* 1126 (BRI).

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